

**New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Alcohol other Drugs
Strategic Planning Retreat
March 23, 2018
Summary Notes**

In Attendance:

Commission Members

John J. Barthelmes
Cheryl Ann Coletti-Lawson
Frank Edelblut
Monica Edgar
Annette Escalante
Katja Fox (representing Jeffrey Meyers,
Commissioner DHHS)
Helen Hanks
Rep. William Hatch
Kevin Irwin
Gordon MacDonald
David Mikolaities
Ken Norton (representing Dan Potenza, NH
Suicide Prevention Council)
Jennifer Patterson (representing Roger
Sevigny, Commissioner NHID)
Chris Placy
James Potter (representing Seddon Savage,
NH Medical Society)
Tym Rourke
Stephanie Savard

Shannon Swett-Bresaw
Mark Armaganian (representing Joseph
Mollica, NH Liquor Commission)
Joseph Ribsam
Tim Lena

Taskforce Chairs/Co-Chairs

Victoria Bagshaw
Richard Frost
Lindy Keller
Joseph Villers

Governor's Office

Marty Boldin
David Mara

Center for Excellence/CHI

Amy Pepin
Katy Shea
Melissa Schoemmell
Adelaide Murray

Introduction:

Governor's Commission, Task Force Chairs and members, and members of the public were all invited to introduce themselves and participate in the discussion throughout the day.

Purpose of the day:

1. Provide strategic direction for the future function and structure of the commission to be included in the Governor's Commission Strategic Plan
2. Form consensus on the timeline and approval of content for Governor's Commission Strategic Plan
3. Define next steps and sectors that need to be engaged in order to complete the Governor's Commission Strategic Plan

Development of Recommendations for the Purpose, Functions, and Structure of the Governor's Commission: Language, Leadership, Taskforces, Reporting, and Funding.

Part One: This agenda item produced lengthy discussion and became the majority of day's agenda. Votes and decisions are summarized on the following pages under the heading, **Recommendations.**

Recommendations: Language

Discussion:

- Retreat participants discussed changing the name of the Commission and the importance of the language. At least eight alternative names were discussed.

ACTION: Motion to change the name of the Commission to Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs

- Motion: James Potter (New Hampshire Medical Society - attending in place of Seddon Savage), Second: Jennifer Patterson (NH Insurance Department - attending in place of Commissioner Sevigny)
- **Vote: In favor, (all), Opposed, (0), Abstained, (0)**
- **Motion passed.** This requires a legislative change and will be a policy recommendation from the Commission to the legislature.

FOLLOW UP: The Commission will do business as the **Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs**, this change will be reflected in the new strategic plan.

Recommendations: Leadership

Discussion:

- Participants discussed leadership of the Commission centered on whether two-person leadership is preferable (Chair and Executive Director) and the potential conflicting roles for Annette Escalante serving as the Chair and the Executive Director of the Governor's

Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs, and the Director of DHHS/Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services.

- Potential conflicts include if there are different priorities of the Commission and NH DHHS; financial priorities may also not be the same
 - Issues such as Medicaid Expansion may be difficult to navigate;
 - Kevin Irwin has been asked by Annette to represent the interest of the Commission at legislative hearings regarding such topics due to potential conflict;
- Two role leadership discussed, with a defined role of the chair (former Chair, Tym Rourke, dedicated 40—50% of his time and this will not be possible for current and future chairs) and strengthening of the role of the Executive Director
 - Having a public member as chair was highlighted as being valuable and important to community members.
 - Discussion of redefining the role of Chair to make it more manageable

ACTION: Motion to make Kevin Irwin, Public Member, Chair of the Commission in order to make two positions, as the statute already has.

- Motion: Cheryl Coletti-Lawson (Annette Escalante recuses herself and requests that Tym Rourke manage this motion), Second: Tim Lena

Continued Discussion:

- Concern that there are imminent legislative needs that require Commission representation.
- Clarification that to replace the existing Chair, Annette should resign the Chair, and that then the floor would be open for nominations and a vote.
- Recommendation that between now and the April meeting, Kevin Irwin can be appointed as legislative representative in order to provide additional time to consider Chair nominations. Annette clarified that she has already asked Kevin to represent the Commission before the legislature.
- Kevin Irwin was asked directly and stated that he is comfortable appearing in front of the legislature and serving in the role of Chair with the assumption that we would be able to strengthen the support around the role.
- **Motion withdrawn by Cheryl Coletti-Lawson.**

FOLLOW UP: Commissioners recommended an ad hoc group define the role of Chair prior to the next meeting and continue the discussion at that time.

Continued Discussion:

- Discussion highlighted that representing the Commission to the Legislature requires information transparency (written testimony sharing etc) and trust.

DECISION: Re-organize the retreat agenda, discuss funding next and delete data presentation.

Recommendations: Funding

Discussion:

- If the current Bill to continue Medicaid expansion in NH, which passed the Senate, is passed by the House, the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs will have no legal authority over funding decisions. In addition, the Alcohol Fund will be used for Medicaid expansion. Governors Commission/ Alcohol Funds have been promised to be backfilled but the mechanism to do that has not yet been identified.

Tym Rourke distributed draft language for an amendment. Detailed discussion led to recommendations for Tym to revise the language and perhaps amend the Commission language and not the Alcohol Fund statute.

FOLLOW UP: Tym will distribute new amendment language for feedback. Tym will contact Senator Bradley to follow up. Tym will use this to Pilot Policy Task Force with 1-2 other people.

ACTION: Motion to determine it is the will of this body to find a vehicle for legislating the backfill of funds to replace the alcohol fund lost to Medicaid expansion, and develop an ad hoc committee to determine that.

- Motion: Tim Lena; Second: Monica Edgar

Continued Discussion:

- This motion is made with the assumption that the 5% from the alcohol fund will be transferred to Medicaid expansion. The Commission has endorsed the plan to transfer the funds to Medicaid, with the understanding that the Commission would maintain authority.
- Tym Rourke supports Tim Lena's motion, provided the assurance is given to backfill, and keep the intention of the Commission. – wants the backfill codified in law.
- The endorsement given at the last meeting was contingent on a backfill solution. This is still our position statement – how do we continue to see this position carried through. Concern that if the backfill dollars are federal funds there will be restrictions on use.
- **Vote: In Favor (8), Opposed, (8), Abstained, (5)**
- **Motion defeated.**

FOLLOW UP: Tym Rourke will share the Commissions position, that they endorsed the use of the Alcohol Fund for Medicaid expansion with the expectation of the fund to be “backfilled”, with Senator Bradley and Kevin Irwin.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Development of Recommendations for the Purpose, Functions, and Structure of the Governor’s Commission: Language, Leadership, Taskforces, Reporting, and Funding

Part Two: The remaining agenda was revised due to time to exclude review of the existing task forces, the existing reporting structure and the Current Scope of the Problem but to wrap up the Recommendations section with discussion of the proposed Policy Task Force.

Recommendations: Task Forces

ACTION: Motion to identify a public policy committee and determine a chair of that committee to speak on behalf of the Commission

- Motion: Ken Norton (representing Suicide Prevention Council); Seconded: Helen Hanks
- Discussion: Clarification that it is the role of the Chair to establish new task forces and assign Chairs. Further discussion about amending motion.
- **Motion withdrawn.**

DECISION: Annette Escalante announced the creation of the **new Public Policy Task Force with Kevin Irwin as Chair.**

Recommendations: Leadership continued

Discussion:

- Discussion regarding role of the Chair if Annette chooses to resign and how the role will be determined.
- There was a legislative intent to have that be two different people; however it is not appear to be against the statute to have one person
- Discussion regarding state employees being Chair and acknowledgement that the large majority of the Commission either works for or has contracts with the State of New Hampshire and may therefore potentially have a conflict of interest. Renewed discussion of the perception of conflict by the public and other stakeholders.

FOLLOW UP: An ad hoc committee of the Commission will convene to establish draft recommendations for roles and responsibilities of the Chair to bring to the April meeting of the Commission for discussion and vote.

Recommendations: Funding continued

ACTION: Motion to approach the legislature to increase the alcohol fund to 8.4% with 5% to Medicaid expansion and 3.4% to the Governor's Commission

- **Motion:** Judge Gordon, Second: Monica Edgar

Discussion (Members including the Attorney General have left and are no longer able to participate in the vote). Lengthy discussion included the following:

- Concern that this may derail the Medicaid expansion process also discussion of this as an evenhanded approach to continue support Medicaid Expansion and Commission priorities
- Is there a way to specify that there is needed funding for the Commission relative to these issues without specifying the alcohol fund? Should it be a different amount? It doesn't need to be an additional 3.4%, could additional 1% or 2% be used for prevention? If Commission receives less than current amount of funding for SFY19 it will not be able to continue current contracts.
- Need to be able to fund the things not covered by Medicaid.
- The current motion is not tied to any particular legislation, it is a policy position.
- The current Medicaid expansion Senate Bill removed the language pursuant to Governor's Commission vote – the money moves automatically on July 1.
- **Vote: For (10), Opposed, (4), Abstained, (1)**
- **Motion passed.**

FOLLOW UP: Tym and the Policy Task Force will represent this policy position to Senator Bradley, that the Commission recommends funding the alcohol fund at 8.4% and use his guidance for how that moves.

FOLLOW UP: Need to continue the infrastructure discussion at the April meeting.

Strategic Plan: Discussion and Development of Next Steps

Strategic Plan: Principles

ACTION: Motion to accept principles as stated on page one of the draft plan

- Motion: Tym Rourke; Second: Stephanie Savard
- **Vote: All in favor**
- **Motion Passed.**

Strategic Plan: Review plan and Structure

- Review of how the recommendations have been aggregated from the task forces and need for other inputs (Law enforcement, Safety, DOC). Need recommendations on other inputs to identify gaps and evidence informed strategies to include in the plan.
- Discussion of Objectives included language of “publically supported treatment”, narrow outcome of overdose could be expanded to negative health outcomes of substance use, and suicide not included in document.

DECISION: Include suicide prevention, harm reduction coalition, and Governor’s office in key informant interviews.

Discussion:

- Data Taskforce assistance with development of SMART objectives
- Last state plan was more aspirational, coming into a budget year, suggestion to be more aspiration to fuel conversation with legislature. Aspirational plan – set benchmarks, impact proposed to have over three year plan, Data taskforce to inform realistic benchmarks.
- Stigma reduction needs to be addressed throughout plan
- Task force Workplans will be measurable and feasible within the year. Allows ability to “report up” in aggregate for annual report
- Gaps identified include, Stigma, Early Identification/Intervention, Suicide, Methamphetamine or other substances, MAT, and syringe exchange
- Suggestion to include a direct statement that clarifies that the recommendations come from evidence based practices/programs/initiatives

Proposed Timeline

- Gather additional inputs (key informants or focus groups) April, May
- Revise current draft, develop final plan May, June
- June GC meeting, plan to be disseminated for final approval
- Final edits and changes made, distributed by 7/1

Meeting adjourned.